



Office of the President

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December 13, 2005

The Honorable Bill Frist, M.D.
Senate Majority Leader
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Talent
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Frist, Feinstein and Talent:

As President of the National District Attorneys Association I want to commend you for your efforts in ensuring that provisions of the "Combat Meth Act" were incorporated into the final Conference Report on the USA PATRIOT Act Reauthorization.

Our Association has long expressed serious concerns over the growing methamphetamine abuse problem in this country. The provisions from the "Combat Meth Act" will provide the resources and controls on precursor chemicals that are desperately needed as a means for a national solution to this scourge.

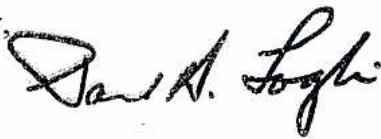
The number of labs manufacturing methamphetamine in the United States has increased exponentially since the mid-1990s; in 1996 some 1,700 meth labs were seized nationwide- less then a decade later that number has escalated to over 16,000 annually. It is readily apparent that the prevalence of such labs has become a national crisis for our justice, health, and environmental systems with primary clean-up costs running into the hundreds of millions of dollars annually. The cost to foster child programs alone is a staggering burden for our communities.

Contributing to this problem is the relatively simple process that exists for the manufacture of methamphetamine. The key precursor chemical needed to produce meth is pseudoephedrine, a chemical contained in numerous cold remedies which have been routinely sold over the counter throughout the country. Cold and allergy remedies containing pseudoephedrine are easily converted to meth by a process so simple that a teenager can make half an ounce of methamphetamine in their bathroom at home – and do!

Effective control of access to products containing the precursor chemical will do much to control access to methamphetamine; will have a definitive impact on the environmental damage done to our communities and will provide the basis to protect the health of the children caught up in the cycle of parental drug abuse.

The language contained in the final conference report will go far in stemming the methamphetamine scourge that has spread across this nation. I encourage the Congress to adopt the final conference report and I thank you again for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Logli
State's Attorney, Winnebago County, IL
President, National District Attorneys Association

cc: Honorable James P. Fox, NDAA Past Vice President, District Attorney, San Mateo County
Honorable Thomas W. Sneddon, Jr., NDAA Past Vice President, District Attorney, Santa Barbara County
Honorable Grover C. Trask, II, NDAA Past Vice President, District Attorney, Riverside County
Honorable Jan Scully, NDAA State Director, District Attorney, Sacramento County
Mr. David LaBahn, Executive Director, California District Attorneys Association
Honorable Robert McCulloch, NDAA Past President, Prosecuting Attorney, St Louis County
Honorable Michael Wright, NDAA State Director, Prosecuting Attorney, Warren County
Honorable Robert Wilkins, President, Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, Prosecuting Attorney, Jefferson County
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Ms. Elizabeth L. Ziegler, Executive Director, Missouri Office of Prosecution Services
Honorable Dan M. Alsobrooks, NDAA Past President, District Attorney General, 23rd Judicial District
Honorable Victor S. Johnson, NDAA Past Vice President, District Attorney General, 20th Judicial District
Honorable Jerry N. Estes, NDAA State Director, District Attorney General, 10th Judicial District
Honorable Greeley Wells, President, Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference, District Attorney General, 2nd Judicial District
Mr. John W. Gill, Jr. NDAA Vice President, Special Counsel, District Attorney Generals' Office, 6th Judicial District

Mr. Tom Henderson, NDAA Associate Director, Assistant District Attorney General,
30th Judicial District
Mr. James W. Kirby, Executive Director, Tennessee District Attorneys General
Conference